

# SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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NO. 42

## S. L. MOSER HERE.

Last week I was honored by a visit from my old friend, S. L. Moser, of St. Louis. He is a member of the Referendum League of the state and is agitating the assembly of Single Taxers in St. Louis in October for the purpose of urging the submission of a Single Tax amendment to the constitution of our state.

Many Kicker readers are familiar with Single Tax theory, for the Kicker advocated it several years ago, and the idea was embodied in Gov. Folk's first message to the legislature. The idea is to place all taxes on land and to exempt all other property—to tax idle land the same as improved land. This would put the tax on idle land so high that land could not be held out of use for speculation.

Eight years ago Mr. Moser and myself were active workers in the public ownership movement. I was a member of the state executive committee while Mr. Moser was a candidate for president of the board of assessors of St. Louis. There is little doubt but what this ticket carried the city of St. Louis, but R. L. Wells and the Democratic "Indian" stole the election.

The Single Taxers are a sincere lot of fellows—and tireless agitators. And the only way a Single Taxer can prevent becoming a Socialist is for him to shut his eyes and decline further investigation and progress. As I said to Mr. Moser, "I was a Single Tax five years ago, but have gone on; you stopped."

He said he thought the Socialists demanded too much and believed in taking one step at a time.

"It is just as easy to demand the whole hog and then take what you get. You deal only with the land. The banks are detrimental to the public welfare as the landlords, and when you get the land question settled you will then, perhaps, take up the banks, the railroads, and so on—one thing at a time—and it would take you ages to get what we expect to get at a single successful election. We have the solution of the land question in our platform, as well as the initiative, referendum and recall. You were ten years getting the referendum into this state, and now it is practically worthless."

"How so?"

"Because it does not provide for the repeal of any existing laws, and so long as the exploiters can hold the laws they have they are all right. It provides that only laws now enacted may be referred to the people, and this must be done within ninety days after the adjournment of the legislature. In other words, people are given the opportunity to condemn a law before they know of its existence. Take, for instance, the recent law enacted to bar minor political parties by forcing candidates to pay large sums to have their names appear on the ticket so that only the wealthy can afford it. I got this information through a conversation with our local representative soon after the adjournment of the legislature, but the masses did not learn of it until a few days ago when it was first published in the St. Louis papers."

Mr. Moser admitted that he did not know of the existence of this law until he saw it in the papers, although he was at Jefferson City much of the time during the legislative session. The object of such laws are suppressed, and many representatives who vote for them do not understand them nor the purpose for which they are introduced. The claim was made by its advocates that the payment of money in order to become a candidate would be an evidence of "good faith" on the part of the candidate.

Under the new law candidates will be required to dig up as follows—For state office and judge of the court of appeals, \$100; for congress, \$50; circuit judge and state senator, \$25; representative, \$5.

This law had almost the unanimous support of both Democrats and Republicans.

"There is all but open revolution in Mexico. The workers there have been pressed to the limit and it requires the severest militarism to hold them down. It is reported that Diaz, the tyrant, will resign. This may only be a ruse to quiet the discontent."

## GETTING STIRRED UP.

The capitalist system is tumbling of its own weight. Everywhere are the evidences of this. Recently the Kicker published an account of a woman and children whose husband and father had been cruelly murdered below Dexter and they were admitted to the Stoddard county poor farm—the best that capitalism has to offer the destitute and the unfortunate.

A few days later this mother and children were dumped onto Campbell, in Dunklin county—and of course, the Campbellites didn't like to assume such responsibilities. Of the matter the Campbell Citizen said:

"If the Stoddard county court, or the poor farm authorities, or the Bloomfield citizens sent her to Campbell, simply to get rid of her, it shows devilish little humanity and much less sense of right, justice and honor to force her on a neighbor town and county that had nothing whatever to do in bringing about her condition. Whoever was guilty of sending the poor, half-crazed, bereaved woman and innocent little children scurrying over the country, without money or food or even the assurance of what would become of them, are almost as mean as the low flung scoundrel who murdered her husband."

This sort of criticism didn't set well with the ruling class of Stoddard county, and the court house organ there—the Bloomfield Vindicator—took it up, and of course, presents the matter in a different light. I know nothing of the facts, but I do know that they who do wrong generally have some plausible excuse for so doing. It is the common practice for authorities to shift responsibility and to make those "move on" that are not profitable to a community. It is a common practice to give the unfortunate "hours" to leave a town.

Last spring I had a man doing chores about the place for a couple of days. When he arrived he was begging food. After he had worked awhile Mrs. Hafner told me of what a splendid worker he was. I asked him why he was here. He said, "I am an iron moulder and was thrown out of work when the Neidringhaus works, of St. Louis, cut down their force. I have tramped to Memphis and back here and found very little work. IN MOST TOWNS THEY WON'T LET YOU EVEN APPLY FOR WORK, but tell you to move on."

No doubt this man voted last fall, to put his boss—Tom Neidringhaus—in Taft's cabinet and himself on the road. In answer to the Campbell Citizen the Bloomfield Vindicator says:

"It is a pity the newspaper profession has to be disgraced by such white livered scoundrels as the writer of the article in the Campbell Citizen. The writer of that article would not have dared to make the same remarks on the street of any town in this county."

Well, it is a little hazardous to talk about the ruling class on a white dung hill, but if the "white livered scoundrel" has violated any law, you can get him at Campbell. If he has violated no law, then a law-abiding citizen is not safe in your midst—according to your statement.

But it seems that you were a little slow about discovering that your "best people" had been slandered—since the article you complained of appeared about two months ago.

At its state meeting at Jefferson City the Farmers Union selected the following officers: President, John A. Miller, Mississippi county; Vice President, N. H. Summit, of Dunklin county; Secretary-Treasurer, L. F. Luthy, of Laclede county; State Organizer, W. W. Fisher, of Charleston; Executive Committee, John M. London, of Macon county, Mr. Music, Cole county, T. J. Douglas, Dunklin county, C. M. Gooch, Ripley county, Wm. B. Yount.

Of course this is a free country. We ain't hampered and dictated to like the folks who live under tyranny. If a farmer wants a mess of squirrels or any sort of wild game, all he has to do is to go to the county clerk, fill out an application wherein he gives his age, residence, color of his hair and eyes, swear to it, and hand over a dollar. If he has a son, or half dozen sons, each must go through the same performance. It's great to be free.

## WANTS ME TO SIDE UP.

Now that the question is up for settlement in Scott county, saloons or no saloons, why don't you stop talking about Socialism long enough, Bro. Hafner, to help drive the dramshop business out of your county? You Socialists claim it is your mission to reform the world and ameliorate the condition of mankind. Why not turn your battery loose on the legalized liquor traffic in Scott county during the next few days and help the good people vote it out on September 4th?—Jackson Cashbook.

You, Bro. McGuire, want me to adopt your policy. You preach prohibition on every day except one—and on that day you vote the same ticket as the liquor dealer. You want me to lose sight of the many evils and center my energy against the result—not the cause—of these evils. Socialism is not a reform movement, but a revolutionary movement. We do not propose the patching up of the effects of an evil system, but the overthrow of it.

We have many of your school of reforms down here. Last fall even the ministers took the stump for "the party," and on the ticket were candidates so wet that their election possibly had something to do with the July overflow. You didn't hear these preachers and reformers say anything against the liquor traffic then. Oh, no! They said all our troubles were due to the Republican tariff, etc., and while the reformers were haranguing a crowd in a country school house or church, it is not at all improbable that another branch of the "invading army" had their "argument" in the brush or bugies outside and uncorked it to those that could be influenced in that way. No howl against the saloon THEN.

That there is no defense for the legalized liquor traffic I agree. But that it is the only evil, or even the greatest evil, I deny. In comparison with the private ownership of the means of production, thus making the masses dependent upon the few for a chance to live, the liquor question sinks into insignificance. And I am glad to note that you begin to see other evils. The following is taken from the Cashbook:

"Missouri is said to have 284,386 farms, more than any other state in the union. It hasn't as many as it ought to have. There are individuals in the state who own many thousands of acres. There is in Scott county, for instance, one man who owns so much land you can start out on horseback from Benton, the county seat, and ride all day without being off that man's land. Such a monopoly of land should not be permitted in this country. Landlordism is a curse to any country. South-east Missouri has its land monopolists, and each and every one of them, while they may in some ways have aided in the progress and development of this part of the state, have in a great measure halted the intellectual, moral and social improvement of Southeast Missouri as a whole. A country's real progress and development is in proportion to the number of farmers it has owning their own farms."

You speak truly, Bro. Mc., but you suggest no remedy. At times you make a noise about an income tax. That would fall on the tenants. It is useless to try to fix things by taxing the owners, so long as the owners have the power to shift the tax on the producers. All over Southeast Missouri we have these "developers of the country" urging that they may be allowed to pay ditch taxes. But this tax is really paid by the men who raise the crops—in increased rents. If a drain ditch increases the productivity of a farm, the rent is increased correspondingly.

I sometimes see you claim that the railroads will charge "all the traffic will bear." Does not the landlord do the same? He leaves the tenant a miserable existence—and generally in debt. The rent raises according to the productivity of the land and the nearness to market. The landlord takes to himself all the national and other advantages. If land is poor and distant from market, the rent is from \$2.50 to \$3. If it is rich and near the market, it is from \$4 to \$6 per acre. Of course the landlord had nothing to do with the fertility of the soil or the nearness of the market, but he is in a position to pocket the advantage.

And neither the Democratic nor Republican parties propose any relief. What are you going to do about it? The Socialists propose to wipe out the landlord and have the land for those who want to till it. They want to wipe out the system that makes it possible for a

man who, perhaps, has never produced enough to keep a canary bird alive to ride all day over his land, while the masses who produce all the wealth have little or no share in God's earth at all. See anything wrong about that?

Excuse me, Bro. Mc. I have ceased being a rainbow chaser. Sikeston will vote independently of the county. Down there the Big Pocket book is on the side of the saloon, which indicates that that town will remain wet. In the county there are now probably a thousand Socialists—a large majority of which will vote dry if the reformers do not disgust them into indifference so that they will remain at home.

The Socialist sees in the reformer quite as formidable an enemy as in the saloon. One befuddles the mind about as much as the other. And Socialism appeals to the brain—not to the stomach. In addition to the advantage of a majority of the Socialist vote, the Big Pocket book is with the drys in the county. Hence a wet Sikeston and a dry county may result.

## THE NEW LAWS.

The laws enacted by the recent legislature are now effective. As usual, there are a few—very few—not entirely satisfactory to capital, and these will be tested for their constitutionality. The following, briefly stated, are those that may interest you:

Felony to shoot into an engine cab or passenger coach other than a dining car.

Felony to destroy or deface any property in burial lot.

Fine ranging from \$10 to \$50 to give a minor cigarette or papers. Imprisonment and fine for breaking into church or school house.

A misdemeanor to destroy fruit or shade trees.

A felony to steal hogs.

A law empowering county courts to condemn private property for court houses and other public buildings.

Makes October 12 legal holiday.

Prohibiting the deduction in weight of hay, grain, coal, etc.

Fixing a poll tax to be levied for road purposes at not less than \$3 nor exceeding \$6. Persons over fifty and under twenty are exempt, as are also residents of incorporated cities.

County courts may levy a tax of 25c on the \$100 of assessed property for road and bridge improvement purposes.

Fixing the bounty to be paid for wolf scalps at \$6 as the maximum.

Re-enacting the old Wamsley game and fish law of 1905. Every person must obtain a license to hunt in any part of the state save on his own property. The shipping of game is prohibited. A license to hunt in the county where one resides will cost \$1, and entitles the holder to hunt in an adjoining county. A state license will cost \$5, and a non-resident must pay \$25 for a license.

## ANSWER THIS.

Chicago Daily Socialist.

The next time an editor annihilates Socialism by kicking the stuffing out of a home-made dummy which he has labelled Socialism, or whenever you hear a politician, preacher, professor, or other wise man of the neighborhood do the same thing, just ask him to stop kicking the straw man for a few minutes and tackle the real thing.

Just as a starter, tell him to try disproving these plain propositions—

The trust marks the road all industry will take. It has traveled far enough in that direction already to make the owners of the trusts the rulers of present society. Twenty years of trust-busting has only served to make them grow and become international.

The trust economizes production and uses machinery that enables each man to do from ten to a thousand times as much as the laborer of a hundred years ago could do. Yet the laborer of that time got a living, and the worker of today does not do so very much better. The difference between what was produced then and now is absorbed by the owners of the trusts, or wasted, in what remains of competition.

The owners of the trust and the corporation are no more essential to the production of goods than cabbage-worms to the production of sauer kraut, the working class is perfectly capable of hanging on to the stocks and bonds that represent ownership of the great industries. If it is not, it can hire a bright ten-year-old kid or a half-crazy degenerate, such as own many of these securities now, to hold the titles and pay them errand-boy wages instead of millions of dollars in dividends.

Then the workers would get ALL that was produced. They certainly could produce enough for all.

Now just tackle these simple

things for a beginning. Do not worry about how the workers will divide their product. That is their trouble. Maybe they will be fools enough to give 75 or 80 per cent of it to a lot of degenerates to spend in dissipation, just as they do now. Maybe they won't.

Do not worry about breaking up the home. It is possible that if the producers of wealth were not robbed of nearly all they produced, that they would all follow Stanford, White, Harry Thaw, and the rest of the Four Hundred into promiscuity. Then again they might not. Anyhow, that has nothing to do with Socialism.

Just cut this out, and the next time you see someone demolishing Socialism, tell him to begin by proving that the fellow who does the work ought not to get the product. When he has proved that it will be time to go to the next step.

## HIGH FINANCE.

By Robert Hunter.

We have all heard of High Finance. Lawson, Stephens and Rees I have told us much of High Finance. Yet there are many who fail to understand High Finance.

A traction company steals the streets of the city. It then decides how many millions the streets are worth. It forms a company, places a capital value on the streets and sells them back to the people for the said millions.

That's High Finance. The people put their millions for safe-keeping in the banks. A small gang gets control of the banks and lends the people's money to those in the gang. With the use of the money they make immense profits, and that's High Finance.

Millions upon millions of the people's money are being held in trust for them by the insurance companies. Ryan and his gang of jolly pirates take charge of these insurance companies. They take the people's money, loan it to themselves to buy railroads, and to finance trusts. They then inflate values, sell the railroads and trusts to the general public, and that's High Finance.

In other words they steal something from the people and sell it back to those from whom they stole it. It's a great business. Fortune has made that way. Astor's are produced. International marriages are consummated, estates laid out, automobiles and yachts purchased, all by virtue of this High Finance.

It is only recently that we came to understand High Finance. Many people do not understand it yet, but we want to make it absolutely clear.

In order that you may never mistake this thing again, let us give you a charming little picture of High Finance.

Johnnie Collins, nine years old, and his sister, Theresa, sixteen years old, found themselves recently in Newark, N. J., short of ready cash. Wanting to get to their home in Brooklyn they decided to practice a little High Finance. They went into a department store and stole a skirt.

Most people who had stolen a skirt would get away with it as quick as possible, but not so with these practiced in High Finance. The children wrapped the skirt in a bundle, took it back to the same store, saying that it was unsatisfactory, and asking to have the price refunded. And that, dear friends, is High Finance.

The law is this—First steal something, but don't run away with it, because that would be just common robbery. Put what you have stolen in a bundle and take it back and sell it again to those from whom you have stolen it.

Practice this until it becomes an art. Wax great in that art. Become rich and powerful thereby. Buy a frock coat and top hat, take a pew in church and pass the plate regularly on Sundays.

Do these things, dear friends, and verily thou wilt become a prince of High Finance.

## RETRIBUTION.

From the Appeal to Reason.

The plutocrat who wins in the game of capitalism wins but little after all. His money bags, his palace, his yacht and his automobile may satisfy his sensual desires, but at what a price! He knows nothing of the higher enjoyments born of the innocence and sweetness of a pure white soul. His finer sensibilities have been blunted if not destroyed in the acquisition of his riches in the brutal game of grab. Greed has choked out his finer instincts and his nature has become soiled as he himself has become soiled. Morally and spiritually he is abnormal, not extinct.

The case is pathetically stated in an article in the American Magazine for April, in which report is made by a body of experts who have been investigating conditions in the city of Pittsburgh with a view to ascertaining the effects of protection upon the workmen's homes and lives. The report discloses an appalling state of poverty for which the protected plutocrat is held responsible. Says the report—

"It puts upon the Pittsburgh millionaire the awful stamp of greed, of stupidity, and of heartless pride. But what should we expect of him? He is the creature of special privilege, which for years he has not needed. He has

fought for it because he fattened on it. He must have it for labor. But look at him and look at his laborer, and believe him if you can.

"Justice takes a terrible revenge on those who thrive on privilege. She blinds their eyes until they no longer see human misery. She dulls their hearts until they no longer beat with humanity. She benumbs their senses until they respond only to the narrow horizon of what they can individually possess, touch, feel. She makes, as she has in Pittsburgh, a generation of men and women who, day by day, can pass hundreds of tumbled down and filthy homes, in which the men and women who make their wealth live, and feel no shock; who can know that deadly fevers and diseases which are preventable are wiping out hundreds of those who do their tasks and cause no harm. Little children may die or grow up stunted and evil within their sight, and no penny of their wealth, no hour of their leisure is given them. Women may pass hours of incessant toil and die broken and unhonored within their sight, and they raise no hand. Wealth which comes by privilege kills. The curse of justice is the sudden mind the dull vision the unfeeling heart."

The picture is not overdrawn. The plutocrat is the victim of his own system. He cannot escape the penalties of his violation of the laws of nature and the laws of morality. The exploitation of his slaves reacts upon himself and in no moral sense he can be his superior, or rise above their low plane.

## THE SOUTHEAST.

The Kicker has given little account of the crimes in adjoining counties because crime is so common that it ceases to be news. But for this week only, I will grant space just to prove that crime increases with the price of bread and the lack of opportunity to get the price. Not only is our own jail overcrowded, but like conditions exist elsewhere.

Caruthersville Democrat—J. W. Bailey is in jail charged with forgery and attempting to pass bad checks. He tried to pass a check signed J. W. Yarbrough on the Peoples county bank and failing to do so continued his efforts at the Caruthersville bank where he also met with failure. Next he tried at Jule Elder's saloon, but met the same results. John Parks, assistant cashier of the Bank of Caruthersville, "phoned" Mr. Yarbrough and was informed that he had given no such check to anyone.

Jackson Cashbook—In precinct court this week H. D. Bird was fined \$100 and given three months in jail for bigamy. Fred Berchinger, for assault with intent to kill, was fined \$100; Frank Hubbard was fined in the sum of \$50 for wearing himself with concealed weapons; Wm. Stone, for the same offense, ten days in jail and for shooting on the public highway, fined \$5 and a day in jail; J. J. Perry, burglary, three years in the pen; Mamie Sharp and Clara Williams, two colored girls, were convicted of stealing a diamond ring and sent to the reform school.

Rev. Stickney, pastor of the M. E. church at Parma, who, with a Mrs. Moore held a meeting at Miners Switch in Scott county, seems to have gone to the bad. At an investigation a witness testified that Miss Moore painted the preacher's cheeks and called him "Freddie Dear." Of course Rev. Stickney is not a Socialist, else the papers would have told us so in box-car letters.

Campbell Citizen—An attempt was made to rob the Farmers Bank at Clarkton Thursday just after the noon hour, but proved unsuccessful. On entering the bank Cashier Chatham found a pistol presented at his head and dodging backward, fell over a stool. In getting up he grabbed the stool and hit the robber with it, falling him to the floor. Then Chatham ran out the front door and the robber fled.

Dunklin County Herald—Saturday W. C. Thomas was sent here to relieve W. H. Pottinger, local manager of the telephone company. Thomas took charge here Monday and went to work collecting. Tuesday evening he left on the train for Frisco, so he informed parties here, since which time no trace of him can be found. He had \$80 in cash which he had collected before disappearing.

Caruthersville Democrat—Benjie Hall and Earl Britton were placed in jail yesterday charged with wholesale forgery of checks. Britton talks freely and acknowledges his part in the transaction, but Hall denies his guilt. Sheriff Franklin returned last night from Henderson Ky., with Walter Jenkins, charged with embezzling about \$1,200 from D. C. Stoptaw.

Charleston Enterprise—Dr. W. P. Howie, the coroner, was down at Bird's Port Tuesday to hold an inquest over the remains of Bill Tolliver, a negro who was shot by his wife. Tolliver was drunk and attempted to cut his wife with a razor. In self defense she shot him. The coroner's jury exonerated his wife.

Puxico Index—Mrs. Edith Whitaker Gillispie is to stand trial at Poplar Bluff for passing a bogus \$35 check. Deputy Sheriff of Butler county has gone to Denver, Colo., to bring her back to Missouri. Her relatives in this city whom she defrauded will not appear against her, we are told.

In Cape county Saturday, C. L. Harrington, who passed as a marine officer, and who has been in the county jail for two months, awaiting trial for attempting to defraud the Frisco Railroad Company by claiming damages for a trunk he had taken from the baggage room and stored away has been sentenced to two and one-half years in the penitentiary.

Cape News—Will Salthus, aged 19, who has been out of the reform school, but a short time, was up before Judge Miller on a charge of theft, yesterday and was given thirty days in the county jail. Some sneak thief entered the home of Dr. F. M. Williams on Friday evening and stole \$20 belonging to an employee of the household.

Arthur Hemmery, of Dexter, a Frisco brakeman, fell from his train at Puxico and was killed. He leaves a young wife.

Rufus Brown, colored, is in the Penitentiary county jail charged with trying to shoot Rev. Martin, also colored. The bullet grazed Rev. Martin's face.

Poplar Bluff Citizen—Arthur Johnson, accused of stealing a fine mare from the barn of John Chilton near Grandin Sunday night, Aug. 8, escaped Thursday from a train on which he was being taken to the scene of the theft.

Malden Merit—Constable John Ogelsby arrived in this city Tuesday morning from Jonesboro, Ark., and had Cass Abraham in custody, who was arrested at that place on a charge of robbing the Anchor Store in this city about one year ago.

Kennett Herald—Last Saturday night someone entered M. W. Lloyd's store through the transaction in the rear. A 1 that could be missed was a 19 size shot gun. The thief lost his hat, which was left in the store.

Malden Merit—The man who attempted to rob the Farmers Bank at Clarkton Thursday afternoon of last week was captured the evening of the said date and taken to Kennett and placed in the county jail.

Charles Chennoweth was arrested at Cooper, Penitentiary county, charged with violating the bond option law at that place by running a blind tiger. He demanded trial by jury and was convicted.

Hercules Webb was re-arrested charged with the murder of Ed Baker at a dance in Cooper, Penitentiary county.

While robbing a drunken man at Caruthersville a negro was shot by an officer.

## PUBLIC SALE.

of Stock, Farm Implements and Household Goods at Macedonia, Wednesday, September 1, 1909. Consisting of one horse 8 years old one male 7 years old one Jersey cow and calf, one milch cow and one heifer, 8 shoats 9 pigs, plows, cultivators, etc. 1 hayrack will take up all kinds hay, 2 two horse plows, 1 three horse plow, 1 corn cultivator, 1 bearing down, wheat drill, harrow, farm wagon and other farming implements. Household goods, etc.

Terms—All sums of \$10 and under cash in hand, over that amount a credit of 11 months will be given, purchaser giving note with approved security drawing 6 per cent interest.

Wm. FERGUSON.

## PUBLIC SALE.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1909. At the old Fritz Koch place, two and a half miles east of Keosau, we will sell two work mules, three mares, a yearling colt, a 4-year old horse, a cow and calf, a farm wagon, two top buggies and harness, saddle, mower, cultivator, section harrow, 2-horse plow, 3-horse plow, two 1-horse plows, double-shovel, hay-rake, a new cook stove with pipe, 100 bales of clover hay, and many other articles.

Terms—\$5 and under, cash; over five dollars a credit of eleven months will be given, purchaser giving note with approved security bearing 7 per cent interest. If promptly paid at maturity, no interest will be charged. Three per cent discount for cash on all sums over five dollars.

Martin Koch.

Loe Auch.

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